

## COVID-19 Oral History Project

Meghan: My name is Meghan Castillo. Today's date is March 9, 2021. Today we will discuss the experiences of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today we are in San Antonio Texas, and I am interviewing Christian-Christian Perez

Meghan: When were you born?

Christian: I was born in San Antonio Texas

Meghan: Where are you from?

Christian Also, San Antonio Texas as well.

Meghan: What is or was your occupation?

Christian: Detention Deputy for the Bexar County sheriff's office.

Meghan: When and how did you first hear about the virus? Can you explain your experience?

Christian: The first time I heard about the virus I was contacted by a friend and telling me about the pandemic. First I thought it was a joke, thought it was another swine flu Just developing and it turned out to be much more. How it affected me was it was kinda scary seeing people out in public with masks and facial coverings not knowing it was going to be as big of a deal as it is now. So at first it was kinda fighting and I think what made it more fighting was I didn't take it as serious when I first discovered the virus.

Meghan: Can you explain how the coronavirus affected you and your family or friends? What has changed?

Christian: So how it affected me was when the outbreak occurred many grocery stores and retail stores were pretty much being raided there were not very many groceries you could find at HEB or Walmart or Trader Joes, it was hard to even find a gallon of milk. Even just regular groceries we would have to live off frozen foods and fruits and vegetables for the time being and fast food.

Meghan: Can you explain how COVID-19 affected your daily or weekly routine, like shopping for groceries and spending time with family?

Christian: It really did limit the amount of social gatherings family and friends would have I remember when the country first went on lock down I was invited to a deputy party and our sheriff made an announcement about the whole social distancing that was occurring and to limit

at the time 10 people per gathering so it wasn't really much of a gathering It really did limit birthday parties, social gatherings family events kinda made the community distant from each other

Meghan: Due to the pandemic are you able to work from home? Why or why not?

Christian: Due to my occupation as a detention deputy we are required to be on call and on post 24/7 being in a law enforcement agency it's kinda impossible to be working from home when you are required to be on call 24/7

Meghan: Do you know anyone that has been infected with the virus?

Christian: Many of my coworkers, including myself experienced the virus as well as family members as well.

Meghan: How has adapting to the virus affected your work/school work responsibilities affected you?

Christian: It is a big responsibilities and liability working for Bexar county sheriff's office. Such as maintaining social distancing from other deputies which makes it a difficult work environment more [particularly] working in the jail and requiring inmates to keep their masks on and social distance as well was a big thing to adapt to not many people took it seriously so obviously it effects them.

Meghan: Question for Texans affected by the winter storm: When you were hit with the February's winter storm did you think about the virus? Why or why not?

Christian: During the winter storm, I think it would be safe to say we were more focused on the winter storm more than the virus. The reason being is because transportation was pretty much difficult to get through the roads. With the elements which included the black ice which limited transportation and traveling it was kinda like the virus many grocery stores were difficult to find and buy groceries many restaurants were closed so it limited alot of food access to food rather,

Meghan: So you're a deputy sheriff, how was your experiences with inmates during Covid-19?

Christian: It was a big adaptment [adaptation] as I said before working in the jail with inmates, and having them maintain social distancing is really difficult reason being is because in units that are high risk which include Mexican Mafia active gang members and cartels they are already facing many years of TDC Texas department of corrections or life to prison but so they have nothing to lose, so if they wish not to wear their PPE it would just make the virus more substile to more deputies, social distancing also plays a big factor in the jail which is really hard to maintain due to the fact some of the units are in lockdown 23 22 hours a day so social interaction is a big part of their lifestyle.

Meghan: What would like to tell future generations about the pandemic?

Christian: If you hear it and you're starting to see people take precautions you can never be too safe also take precautions don't take things lightly don't take things with a grain of salt cause its a snowball turning into a monster. Even if social gathers are limited you take precaution in any pandemic rather it's the coronavirus or any new strain of the virus or any future virus always take precautions and maintain social distancing wash your hands as much as you want to go out and party you have to make sure you consider yourself and others first.